



Meeting Minutes Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Friday, February 12, 2016	
	TIME	9:30 A.M.	
	LOCATION	Nevada Highway Patrol – Southern Command Training Room A-105 4615 W. Sunset Road Las Vegas, NV 89118	
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Karen Hall	
Commission Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Derek Armstrong	
Joseph Lombardo	X	Laura Bucheit	X
Chuck Allen	X	Karen Burke	X
Gregory Cassell	X	Caleb Cage	X
Lisa Christensen		Gonzalo Cordova	X
Robert Fisher	X	Chris Ipsen	X
Adam Garcia	X	Michael Roberson	X
Frank Gonzales	X		
Mark Hutchison	X	Samantha Ladich – Sr. DAG	X
Ikram Khan	X	Karen Hall (Analyst/Staff)	X
Tom Lozich			
William McDonald	X		
Charles Moore	X		
Richard Perkins	X		
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X		
Troy Wade			
Bill Welch	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Governor Brian Sandoval, Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (Commission) called meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Karen Hall, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (NDEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval opened discussion for public commentary in both the northern and southern venues. No public commentary was presented in either venue.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Sandoval called for approval of the meeting minutes from the Commission meeting held January 15, 2016. Motion to approve was provided by Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care Consultants, and a second was provided by Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD). All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Governor Sandoval opted to move to Agenda Item #5 due to the importance of the agenda content. No other commentary by the Governor.

5. UPDATE ON THE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP). REVIEW OF COMMISSION PRIORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2016 PRIORITIES

Chief Caleb Cage, NDEM/HS provided a thorough overview of the HSGP Process and review of Commission priority development. Highlights included:

- Overview of the FFY2016 HSGP including expected funding allocations for Nevada in both the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), review of FFY2015 HSGP projects, and discussion on the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group (HSWG) and Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) process;
- Overview of the Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR);
- Presentation on Commissioner's individually selected priorities; and
- Presentation of summarized and rank-ordered core capabilities from the results of the Commission selections denoting the following top five priorities chosen for FFY2016:
 - #1 - Cybersecurity
 - #2 - Intelligence and Information Sharing
 - #3 - Public Information and Warning
 - #4 - Operational Coordination
 - #5 - Operational Communications

Governor Sandoval thanked the Commission for their input throughout this process, and then opened discussion on the priorities chosen for FFY2016. Sheriff Lombardo presented concern over the amount and quality of programs put in place, speaking specifically to the ranking of Cyber Security as #1 as well in 2015. The concern lies with measuring the increase in capability versus the threat being ranked as the number one priority. Additional concern was presented over the amount of money the cyber-related projects take from the overall funding available, and whether those projects are actually closing the capability gaps within the state. Chief Cage spoke as well about his communications with Deputy Chief John Steinbeck, Clark County Fire Department regarding concerns in using limited funding to strategically address capability gaps within the state.

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adopt the FFY2016 priorities as presented. Motion was provided by Dr. Khan, and a second provided by Robert Fisher, Broadcaster. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously. The Governor emphasized the amount of work this unique process entails, and again thanked the Commission and staff for their efforts in the FFY2016 process.

6. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE CYBER SECURITY COMMITTEE

Chief Cage provided an update on the status of the Cyber Security Committee (CSC) to include an overall brief on the mission and purpose of the CSC in providing advisory recommendations on Nevada's cybersecurity risk, cyber-threat preparedness posture, statewide cybersecurity planning, cyber-related training and exercises, and enhancement of security awareness through education, public awareness, and engagement with public and private sector partners. Chief Cage, at the request of the Governor, read into record the membership of the CSC noting the expertise of that body to include cybersecurity, information technology, and critical infrastructure from federal, state, county, city, and private industry. Emphasized was the involvement of the CSC in the upcoming HSGP process to review cyber-related HSGP projects for FFY2016.

Dr. Khan inquired on the timeline of the CSC mission in addressing the cyber threat in Nevada, speaking to ongoing and recent cyber threats both nationally and potentially in the state. Chief Cage indicated that the timeline starts with the FFY2016 HSGP process and review of cyber-related projects, and then subsequently the CSC will continue to address cyber issues in Nevada throughout the year. With regard to how quickly this can be done thru existing projects and new projects, that will be a function of how quickly funding can be received from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Governor Sandoval inquired if the CSC would be subject to the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML), and Senior Deputy Attorney General, Samantha Ladich, confirmed the CSC will be subject to the OML. Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison inquired on the Commission's history in laying a foundation for cybersecurity, with Chief Cage indicating that the Commission's role to date has been to establish priorities and approve cyber-related projects for Nevada. The determination was made that the CSC will be starting their mission to enhance cybersecurity with a clean slate to develop capacity in Nevada. Robert Fisher spoke to the changing threat level over the years, the definition of Commission priorities, and the Nevada Legislature engagement as well. Mr. Fisher emphasized was how much the Commission, under Governor Sandoval, has accomplished in addressing threats in Nevada.

7. OVERVIEW OF THE STUDENT VISA PROCESS IN NEVADA

Jeffrey Pannell, Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) and Exchange Program Specialist for the University of Nevada Reno provided an overview of the Student Visa process in Nevada with the following highlights:

- Basic terms and classifications associated with the Student Visa program;
- Specific forms used including Form I-20 and DS-2019;

- Processes involved in obtaining a Student Visa;
- Processes for entry in the United States;
- Institutional reporting requirements;
- Student reporting obligations; and
- Pre and Post-completion work authorization processes.

Considerable discussion ensued led by Governor Sandoval pertaining to how long students can stay in Nevada as well as how students are tracked once in the state. Mr. Pannell indicated that the student stay is predicated on their visa status, citing examples of how the system works in addition to emphasizing the avenues for assistance throughout the process. Governor Sandoval expressed concern over the complexity of the process in addition to speaking about a current issue regarding a preeminent teacher in Clark County faced with having to leave the United States as a result. The Governor presented additional concern in the face of teacher shortages in Nevada, and the effect of losing quality instructors as a price of this process which may not be in the best interest of the education system. Dr. Khan expressed his commendation of the University's staff for meeting the provisions required, however also expressed concern on the vetting process and how students can be tracked. Mr. Pannell indicated that non-reporting students are terminated in the system and then are considered to be in the United States illegally. From there, those instances are handled by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). General (Ret.) Frank Gonzales, NV Energy, expressed concern over the difficulty the students have between the ages of 18-26 in that once they are off the Visa, and should they fail to register for service, it is very difficult for them to become citizens. The system doesn't accommodate remedies for quality students who have made registration errors.

Mr. Pannell addressed the current remedies available for students including the ability to leave and then re-enter the visa process again or appeal through a SEVIS school to build a case as to why the student is out of status. Robert Fisher presented concern on students that may intentionally fall out of the system questioning what measures are in place to find missing students. Mr. Fisher indicated that he was interested in knowing how many students have fallen out of the system in the past five years, with Governor Sandoval asking for clarification on that issue from Mr. Pannell. Mr. Pannell explained how UNR tracks its students indicating that SEVIS schools could provide information on this issue in addition to ICE with regard to missing students with expired visas. Additional discussion was presented by Lt. Governor Hutchison on tensions between state and federal interests when students or business want to stay in the United States. Governor Sandoval indicating he would like to hear a more in-depth presentation on what happens when individuals have not reported as expected on a future agenda item.

8. DISCUSSION ON THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF NEVADA COMMISSION ON HOMELAND SECURITY (NCHS) RURAL COMMUNITIES OUTREACH

Chief Cage presented discussion on reestablishing outreach efforts to rural communities for Commission-related initiatives. Speaking to the request to look at reestablishing a Rural Communities Committee, Chief Cage indicated that establishing such a Committee had numerous challenges ranging from seating the Committee quickly, staff support, and most importantly an equity issue with having a

“rural”-specific Committee under the Commission, yet no other committees under the Commission from the UASI or other urban areas. Chief Cage recommended as an alternative to continue ongoing outreach efforts through NDEM/HS through Emergency Management conferences, webinars, and direct technical assistance to communities interested. Mr. Fisher spoke to the historical outreach efforts of Commissioners in the past, and addressing rural concerns that may fall outside of the process. Specific emphasis was placed on funding availability to smaller communities, and that outreach activity would continue to address these types of issues in lieu of creating another Committee.

9. UPDATE ON RESPONSE MEASURES IN PLACE FOR HAZARDOUS AND RADIOLOGICAL WASTE SITES IN NEVADA

Chief Cage provided an update on the October 18, 2015, Beatty Industrial Fire at the U.S. Ecology Site including response measures both immediate and ongoing. A team of state and federal agencies including the Chief, Jon Bakkedahl, Northern Nevada Radiation Control Program, Pete Mulvihill, State Fire Marshall, and Mike Leigh, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection travelled recently to the Armargosa Valley to speak to the residents regarding ongoing mitigation and recovery efforts. Emphasis was placed on determining an engineered solution to secure the site and to ensure this type of issue does not happen in the future. The site was reported as safe, and the State is taking the cleanup and monitoring of the site very seriously. Frank Carbone, Nye County Commissioner spoke highly of these efforts in addressing public concerns related to this incident.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval called for public commentary. Gonzalo Cordova, Department of Homeland Security, addressed several informational issues to include informing the Commission that there would be a classified teleconference to address recent Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) rankings on February 17, 2016 at 1:00 p.m., and the briefing would be coordinated between the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center (SNCTC) and the Nevada Threat Analysis Center (NTAC). Additionally, DHS has completed a draft report on the Regional Resiliency Assessment Program wastewater project in Southern Nevada. That report will be distributed to participating stakeholders, and Mr. Cordova urged that the information provided in this draft report could be used as supplementary support information for HSGP project requests during the HSGP process.

11. ADJOURN

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion presented by Lt. Governor Hutchison, and a second provided by Sheriff Chuck Allen, Washoe County Sheriff’s Office. Meeting was adjourned.